

USSN 09/826,355

Art unit 2644

Examiner Shortledge, T.

between two things. Such relations are not present in the grammars generated by Zadrozny et al, and Fraser et al therefore cannot be combined with Zadrozny et al.

The rule of inference in Fraser et al. also has nothing to do with the inference rules as claimed (comprising pairs of semantically equivalent paths). Fraser et al uses two propositions: A isa B and P to infer another proposition Q (that is same as P except that A is substituted for B). Q is a proposition that has different meaning than either "A isa B" or P.

Consider the example on p.139 in Fraser et al.

(13a) Clyde isa elephant

(13b) color of elephant = gray

(13c) color of Clyde = gray

Here 'Clyde' corresponds to the A and elephant corresponds to B in the rule in Fraser et al. (13a) has the form A isa B, (13b) is P, (13c) is Q. The conclusion Q (color of Clyde = gray) has different meaning from either "Clyde isa elephant" or "color of elephant = gray".

In contrast, the claimed inference rules (pairs of semantically equivalent paths) relate paths formed by concatenated relationships between words in the text that have same or similar meanings. For example, "X solved Y" and "X found a solution to Y". These are completely different relations than expressed by either Fraser et al or Zadrozny et al.

Consequently, since neither Zadrozny et al nor Fraser et al disclose the claimed inference rules, their combination cannot yield the invention as claimed in claim 1.

The remaining rejections do not need to be dealt with since all depend on the combination of Zadrozny et al and Fraser et al, and Kendall, the additional reference cited, likewise fails to teach inference rules as claimed.

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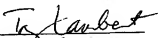
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However, some observations on the examiner's comments on applicants' arguments are in order, since this might shed some light on the examiner's misunderstanding of the Zadrozny et al reference.

In relation to claims 2, 5 and 17, the examiner simply equates counting of non-terminals in Zadrozny et al with counting words in the claimed invention. The examiner cites col. 5, 11-17 and col. 6, lines 47-49 as indicating that Zadrozny's non-terminals are words. However, there is nothing in that selection from Zadrozny et al to suggest that the non-terminals are words. On the contrary, Zadrozny et al at col. 2, lines 6-13 clearly teaches that the non-terminals are not words. Zadrozny et al specifically states (col. 2, line 10) that the terminals are words. Thus, the non-terminals are not words. The examiner's rejection, including the rejection of claim 1, is therefore based on a misunderstanding of Zadrozny et al.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections, and allowance of the claims, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted, and certified as being faxed to the USPTO on Aug. 21/05


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